

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of providing a data message in a communication system that has a plurality of local service providers comprising:

(a) identifying a location of a passive device by finding one of said plurality of local service providers that has control over communications of an active device that is associated with said passive device, wherein said passive device is capable of receiving messages ~~from transmitted by~~ said local service provider and incapable of transmitting messages to said local service provider; and

(b) transmitting said data message to said local service provider for transmission to said passive device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising (c) identifying said active device with which said passive device is associated, and wherein said identity of said active device is used by step (a).

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein step (a) accesses a database that contains said identity of said active device and a list of passive devices of said subscriber that are associated with said active device.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising (d) identifying said passive device that is to receive said data message, and wherein said identity of said passive device is used by step (c).

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said passive device is selected from the group consisting of: a watch, a pen, a telephone, a frame, a wallet, and a beeper.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said active device is a cellular telephone, and wherein said local service provider is a local cellular service provider in a cellular communication system.

7. (Currently amended) A computer comprising:

a processor, a memory and a communication interface;

first means for identifying a location of a passive device by finding a local service provider that has control over communications of an active device that is associated with said passive device, wherein said passive device is capable of receiving messages from transmitted by said local service provider and incapable of transmitting messages to said local service provider; and

second means for transmitting a data message to said local service provider for transmission to said passive device.

8. (Original) The computer of claim 7, further comprising third means for identifying said active device with which said passive device is associated, and wherein said identity of said active device is used by said first means.

9. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 8, wherein said first means accesses a database that contains said identity of said active device and a list of passive devices of said subscriber that are associated with said active device.

10. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 8, further comprising fourth means for identifying said passive device that is to receive said data message, and wherein said identity of said passive device is used by said third means.

11. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 7, wherein said passive device is selected from the group consisting of: a watch, a pen, a telephone, a frame, a wallet, and a beeper.

12. (Previously presented) The computer of claim 7, wherein said active device is a cellular telephone, and wherein said local service provider is a local cellular service provider in a cellular communication system.

13. (Currently amended) A passive device comprising a personal article that has a display, a receiver capable of receiving data via a wireless transmission from a local service provider of a communication system, a transmitter that has a transmission range that includes a nearby active device, but not a said local service provider-of-a communication system, and that is capable of transmitting an identity message to said active device, and a controller for processing said data for display on said display and said transmission of said identity message by said transmitter.

14. (Currently presented) The passive device of claim 13, wherein said transmission range is about zero foot to about 100 feet.

15. (Previously presented) The passive device of claim 13, wherein said personal article is selected from the group consisting of: a watch, a pen, a telephone, a frame, a wallet, and a beeper.

16. (Currently amended) A memory medium for a computer that controls the presentation of a data message to a passive device, said memory medium comprising:

first means for controlling said computer to identify a location of said passive device by finding a local service provider that has control over communications of an active device that is associated with said passive device, wherein said passive device is capable of receiving messages ~~from transmitted by~~ said local service provider and incapable of transmitting messages to said local service provider; and

second means for controlling said computer to present said data message to said local service provider for transmission to said passive device.

17. (Previously presented) The memory medium of claim 16, further comprising third means for controlling said computer to identify said active device with which said passive device is associated, and wherein said identity of said active device is used by said third means.

18. (Previously presented) The memory medium of claim 17, further comprising fourth means for controlling said computer to identify said passive device that is to receive said data message, and wherein said identity of said passive device is used by said third means.

19. (Previously presented) The memory medium of claim 16, wherein said passive device is selected from the group consisting of: a watch, a pen, a telephone, a frame, a wallet, and a beeper.

20. (Previously presented) The memory medium of claim 16, wherein said active device is a cellular telephone, and wherein said local service provider is a local cellular service provider in a cellular communication system.

21. (Previously presented) A passive device that is capable of receiving data messages from a local service provider, said passive device comprising:

a low power transmitter that has a transmission range, which includes a nearby active device, but not said local service provider, and that transmits to said active device at least one signal that identifies said passive device and its location of close proximity to said active device for relay to a global registry; and

a receiver that is capable of receiving said data messages from said local service provider after the identity and the location of said passive device has been entered in said global registry.

22. (Previously presented) The passive device of claim 21, wherein said signal is transmitted via wireless transmission, and wherein said data messages are received via wireless transmission.

23. (Previously presented) The passive device of claim 21, further comprising a display and a processor that processes said data messages for presentation on said display.

24. (Previously presented) The passive device of claim 21, wherein said active device is a cellular telephone, and wherein said local service provider is a local cellular service provider in a cellular communication system.

25. (Previously presented) The passive device of claim 21, wherein said passive device is selected from the group consisting of: a watch, a pen, a telephone, a frame, and a beeper.

26. (Previously presented) A method for a passive device that is capable of receiving data messages from a local service provider, said method comprising:

transmitting from said passive device to a nearby active device at least one signal that identifies said passive device and its location of close proximity to said active device for relay to a global registry; and

receiving said data messages from said local service provider after the identity and the location of said passive device has been entered in said global registry.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said signal is transmitted via wireless transmission, and wherein said data messages are received via wireless transmission.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said ~~wherein said active device is a cellular telephone, and wherein said local service provider is a local cellular service provider in a cellular communication system.~~

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating steps (a) and (b) for an additional data message, wherein the local service provider identified by the repeated step (a) is a local service provider that currently has control over the communications of said active device, whereby the passive device is movable from said location to a new location and still able to receive said additional data message.